

CROSSCURRENTS

Annual Newsmagazine of the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center**

VOLUME 36
2014

CENTER REMEMBERS THE LEGACY OF YURI KOCHIYAMA

Yuri Kochiyama, a long-time activist and champion for human rights, passed away on June 1, 2014 at the age of 93. She is well-known for her work towards reparations for Japanese Americans after their World War II incarceration, her connections with Malcom X and the Black Liberation Movement, and her activism to free political prisoners and around other social justice issues.

The Center is honored to have worked with Kochiyama. Her time at UCLA as an “activist-in-residence” and a Visiting Scholar in 1998, through the **UCLA Alumni and Friends of Japanese Ancestry Chair in Japanese American Studies Fund**, enriched the life of the Center and the campus. The Center had the amazing opportunity of working with her on the award-winning memoir *Passing It On* (UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 2004) and housing the Yuri Kochiyama Collection, with papers, photographs, flyers and memorabilia relating to the Asian American Movement and her own personal life.

After her passing, *Amerasia Journal* paid special tribute to her with a piece written by Publications Coordinator **Mary Kao** in Issue 40:2. A forum in Issue 40:3 remembers Kochiyama’s life with perspectives by **Audee Kochiyama-Holman**, **Eddie**

Kochiyama, **Ryan Kochiyama**, **Kai Williams**, **Karen Tei Yamashita**, **Thandisizwe Chimurenga**, **Renee Tajima-Peña**, and **Diane Fujino**. On the *Amerasia* blog, Kao also wrote about the touching memorials held in Kochiyama’s honor that took place this year in Oakland, Los Angeles, and New York.

As Kao stated, “Yuri’s spirit of boundless generosity and fearless acts of revolutionary kindness shine light onto a better world.” The Center is grateful to have experienced Kochiyama’s light and to be a part of preserving her legacy of revolutionary struggle and activism for future generations.



Image of Yuri Kochiyama, featured on the cover of *Passing It On*.
(From the Yuri Kochiyama Collection)

COLLEGE DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT PASSES VOTE



Asian Pacific Coalition staff sorting, labeling and distributing postcards sent to UCLA faculty urging them to vote yes for the Diversity Requirement.
(Photo courtesy of Jazz Kiang)

After decades of advocating and three failed attempts, the long-sought after **Diversity Requirement** has passed at UCLA. Faculty in the College of Letters and Sciences voted in October to make it mandatory for College undergraduate students to take one diversity course. With 46 percent of eligible faculty voting, 332 voted in favor, 303 opposed and 24 left it blank. It also passed through the Academic Senate, 85 to 18, and was unanimously supported by the Undergraduate Students Association Council. The requirement will be implemented in the College of Letters and Sciences starting Fall 2015 for incoming freshmen and 2017 for transfer students.

The College joins the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture, as well as the seven University of California campuses that have similar requirements. The only UC campus without a comparable requirement is Merced.

The Center congratulates everyone—from faculty, students, staff to alumni—throughout the years who worked to make this requirement a reality. Student organizer and Asian Pacific Coalition Director **Jazz Kiang** shares his thoughts on this historic vote on page twelve of this issue.



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As the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, *CrossCurrents* keeps readers informed of Center activities, including academic programs, research projects, student achievements, and relevant university and community issues. *CrossCurrents* also covers important events and projects related to Asian American Studies and communities, but not directly sponsored by the Center.

For more information on *CrossCurrents*, please contact the editor.

GIVING TO THE CENTER

If you wish to support the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please visit our website (www.aasc.ucla.edu) and click on "Donate" at the far right of the navigation bar. Your donation, regardless of amount, has a powerful impact on the research and educational activities that take place within the Center. We greatly value and appreciate your help in making our work possible.

Alumni and friends interested in making a gift to the Center by endowing a scholarship, supporting faculty research, making a planned gift or other major contribution, should contact:

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ICHIOKA-GEE ENDOWED FUND

On Saturday, May 17th, the Center hosted a community celebration commemorating the completion of the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowed Fund in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**. It took place at the Senshin Buddhist Temple in South Central Los Angeles.

The afternoon featured a slideshow with images of both Ichioka and Gee and a video of the late **Yuji Ichioka** testifying at the Congressional hearings that resulted in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Program highlights included a message from **Director Emeritus Don Nakanishi** and a reading of an original poem written for the occasion by long-time *Amerasia Journal* editor and former Center staff, **Russell Leong**. **Emma Gee** was presented with proceeds from the annual Yuji Ichioka Memorial Basketball Tournament by UCLA Nikkei Student Union students **Teryn Hara** and **Justen Quan**. At the end of the program, Gee gave her heartfelt thanks to the many contributors who supported and gave to the endowment over the years.

The event gathered together a number of community members and friends. Attendees received special commemorative mugs. Good food and live music, led by **Scott Nagatani**, was enjoyed by all.

The endowment honors these two key Center founders and Asian American studies trailblazers. Yuji Ichioka is credited for coining the phrase "Asian American" and was a renowned historian and activist, who taught at UCLA for nearly thirty-three years. Emma Gee, an Asian American Studies pioneer in her own right, was instrumental in advancing the field as she worked to establish core curriculum and edited the foundational text *Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America*. This fund recognizes their spirit and commitment to social justice and immigrant communities and will be used to support future programming and research.



Justen Quan and Teryn Hara of Nikkei Student Union with Emma Gee (center).

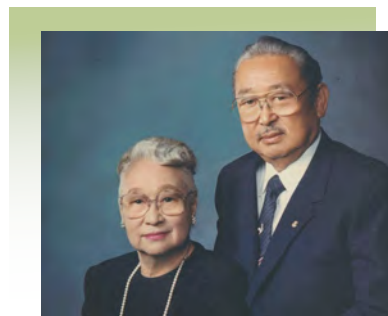
Emma and Yuji
Now it is our turn to thank you
For creating a counterpoint to false history.
For asking the right questions:

Who are we?
What did we do?
Where are we going?
Why are we here?

Who. What. Where. Why.
For bringing Truth to Power.
For bringing Asia and America
Together, Then and Now:

For the worker and the migrant.
For the woman and the man
For the Asian American 'till now
In struggle, and struggling still.

Excerpt from
*"COUNTERPOINT/
From Then Until Now"*
by Russell Leong



Kazuko and Sanbo Sakaguchi

SAKAGUCHI FUND IN JAPANESE AMERICAN STUDIES ESTABLISHED

The estate of the late **Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi** and his late wife **Kazuko** endowed a one million dollar research fund at the Center to support activities connected to research, student work, and community-based partnerships. The **Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Sakaguchi Research Fund in Japanese American Studies** joins two academic prizes already established by Sakaguchi's sister **Dr. Mary Sakaguchi**, who passed away last year.

The Sakaguchi family had strong ties to the Japanese American community, especially in the San Fernando Valley. Both Mary and Sanbo Sakaguchi practiced medicine there and the family generously supported youth activities, such as judo.

After earning his bachelor's degree at UCLA in 1939, Sanbo Sakaguchi attended medical school at Marquette University in Wisconsin. During World War II, his family was incarcerated along with nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans on the West Coast. He returned to Los Angeles after the war and later married Kazuko. They had met while he attended UCLA.

The Center is grateful to the Sakaguchi family for its generous contributions and support.

CENTER, IAC CELEBRATE 45 YEARS OF ETHNIC STUDIES

The Center, along with the other Ethnic Studies Research Centers and the **Institute of American Cultures (IAC)**, are proud to mark forty-five years of ethnic studies at UCLA. Established in the 1969-1970 academic year, the Center was the result of faculty, student, alumni, and community advocacy in the wake of the ethnic studies strikes in San Francisco and Berkeley. Since those beginnings, it has grown to be the leading research center in the field of Asian American studies.

This academic year features a number of events marking this milestone, as the Center and IAC also kick-off the journey to fifty years of ethnic studies at UCLA. The next five years will feature more programming and activities that will build towards a more sustainable future. The Center is commemorating this historic milestone by celebrating forty-five of its many accomplishments on its website, releasing one each week during this academic year. View them at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu> or on the Center's Facebook or Twitter accounts.

JEFF CHANG TALKS PAST AND FUTURE OF RACE IN WHO WE BE FOR INAUGURAL NISHIDA SERIES LECTURE

On November 5th, twenty-two years after entering the Asian American Studies Masters Program, **Jeff Chang** (pictured right) returned to the Center and UCLA with his newest publication *Who We Be: The Colorization of America* (St. Martin's Press) with the support of the **David and Tina Yamano Nishida Distinguished Lectureship in Asian American Studies**. His follow-up to the award-winning *Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation* focuses on the cultural history of the concept of race and how the ideas of multiculturalism and diversity have been developed, challenged and even co-opted in the so-called "culture wars."

Chang met with graduate students and staffs of the Center and Department over an informal lunch. He shared how he came to UCLA in the first Asian American Studies MA class af-

ter the L. A. Uprisings and what it was like during those times. He also started a discussion on UCLA's current issues around race, especially in light of campus climate after the posting of hate flyers, the racist letter sent to the Center, the Moreno Report, and the videos about the university's lack of diversity by Black undergraduate and Law School students.

During the lunch and at his talk, Chang spoke about how proud he was to hear about students organizing around these issues. However, he also lamented that people have to fight some of the same battles for racial and social justice and equality that were waged decades before. He challenged those in attendance to take notice of what is happening around them, to care about it, and to take action. He emphasized the need to bring an end to the culture wars and how people "need desperately to dream together again."

The event was co-sponsored by the Institute of American Cultures, American Indian Studies Center, American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program, Asian American Studies Department, Bunche Center for African American Studies, Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies, Chicano Studies Research Center, Department of African American Studies, Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Undergraduate Association, Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association, and Asian Pacific Coalition.



UCLA students and staff with Jeff Chang during his visit at the Center.

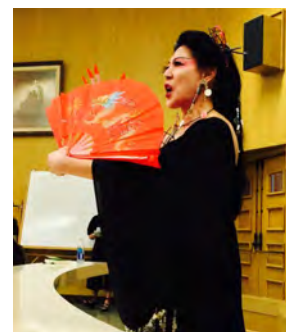
GUARDIAN PRINCESS ALLIANCE

On August 2nd, the Center and the Department of Gender Studies co-sponsored an event on campus to celebrate the launch of the *Guardian Princess Alliance* (GPA) book series. The series is produced by a new educational media organization that aims to transform the traditional representations of princesses by presenting them as superheroines who work together to protect people and the planet. GPA was founded by **Setsu Shigematsu**, Associate Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside.

Two of the upcoming titles feature characters of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. Princess Ten Ten, Guardian of the Skies, is the first-ever East Asian gender independent superheroine. She is a mixed heritage East Asian princess who does not conform to the gender norms of her society and her story addresses the problem of bullying and air pollution. In 2015, **Juliann Anesi** will co-author a story that will draw from Samoan and Pacific Islander cultures, featuring Princess Leilani, a heroine who heals people through the power of natural remedies. Learn more about the series and the princesses on their website (<http://www.guardianprincesses.com>).

KAREN TEI YAMASHITA BRINGS ANIME WONG TO UCLA

Award-winning author and *Amerasia Journal* Editorial Board member **Karen Tei Yamashita** came to UCLA on April 7th for a stimulating talk and signing for her latest publication *Anime Wong: Fictions of Performance* (Coffee House Press). The event featured Yamashita reading excerpts from the book, which is described as a "memory book of performances," and she spoke on her experiences with past film and stage productions. Those in attendance were also treated to music shared by **Gary Gabisan** and **Joyce Lu** in performance as Anime Wong. The event was co-sponsored by the Asian American Studies Department, Center for EthnoCommunications, the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts and Professor Lucy Burns's Asian American Studies 121 Class: Exploring Asian Theater.



Joyce Lu as Anime Wong.

CHU ENDOWED CHAIR PRESENTS EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

Last year, the Center welcomed **Professor Robert Teranishi** as the **Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies**. As chairholder, he worked with students from the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies (GSE&IS) during the Spring Quarter to bring special guests speakers to UCLA for a series on "**Asian American and Pacific Islander Leadership in Education**." These guests were the Honorable **Robert Underwood**, President of the University of Guam; **Dina Maramba**, Professor of Higher Education at SUNY Binghamton; and **Don T. Nakanishi**, Director Emeritus of the Center and Professor Emeritus of Asian American Studies.

Professor Teranishi sought to organize this series in order to empower these graduate students. He stated, "I wanted students to gain first-hand knowledge from key thought leaders and change agents. It is important for students to think about their own potential as agents of change in a field that has little representation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders." The

Center and the Institute for Immigration, Globalization, and Education co-sponsored these events.

The Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies was established by alumni **Morgan and Helen Chu**, who were also among the co-founders of the Center. Teranishi is the inaugural chairholder and has an appointment as a professor of education in GSE&IS.



GSE&IS students with Director and Professor Emeritus Don Nakanishi and Professor Robert Teranishi.
(Photo courtesy of Robert Teranishi)

SUYAMA PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Suyama Project, an online archival collection focused on the history of Japanese American Resistance during World War II (WWII), was launched this year. It is funded by the **Eji Suyama, 100th Bn/442nd RCT Draftees, No-Nos, Draft Resisters and Renunciants Archival Collection Endowment**.

On November 22nd, the Center and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute hosted a discussion on the Poston Strike and presented the project website to more than 100 community members. Project co-coordinator **Tam Nguyen** showed components of the website and provided examples of available materials. **Professor Lane Hirabayashi** shared historical background on the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. With his daughter **Katherine Fong** by his side, **Minoru "Min" Tajii**, who participated in the Poston Strike, talked about his experiences. Several people in attendance had also been taken to WRA centers and were recognized at the event by Project co-coordinator **Martha Nakagawa**. Similar events are planned, including one at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California in San Francisco on March 7th, 2015.

The Suyama Project and the Endowment are named after the late **Eji Suyama**, part of the 100th Bn/442nd RCT, who openly voiced opposition to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and penned letters to newspapers on the issue. The project website is <http://www.suyamaproject.org>.



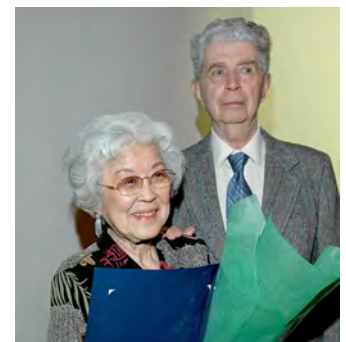
Professor Lane Hirabayashi, Min Tajii and Katherine Fong at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

CENTER AWARDED NPS GRANT TO PRESERVE HERZIG PAPERS

The **National Park Service (NPS)** awarded a \$154,960 matching grant to the Center through the **Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program**. The JACS Grant Program, established in 2006, supports projects that aim to preserve and interpret confinement sites of Japanese Americans imprisoned during World War II.

The NPS funding will be used towards the processing, cataloging, and preservation of more than four decades of research and primary materials in the **Jack and Aiko Herzig papers**. As Center librarian and archivist **Marjorie Lee** stated, "The collection will not only enhance public knowledge about the unjust mass removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, but also offer invaluable lessons to anyone vitally concerned with issues of social justice in America."

Upon the project's completion, it will be transferred to the UCLA Charles E. Young Library Special Collections. Special Collections will provide permanent archival storage and allow research access. The Center looks forward to being able to share this important and extensive archive, gathered by **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga** and **Jack Herzig**, with the community.



Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and Jack Herzig when they were honored at the Center's 36th Anniversary Dinner in 2005.

PROFESSORS MAY WANG, SEAN METZGER, VINAY LAL RECOGNIZED WITH FACULTY PROMOTIONS

The Center congratulates **Professors May Wang and Vinay Lal** on their promotions to the rank of Full Professor! **Professor Wang** of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health currently serves as the chair of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). She has been a faculty member in the Department of Community Health Sciences since 2008 and her interdisciplinary research focuses on social disparities in child health, particularly dealing with childhood obesity. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of a five-year interdisciplinary study that is pioneering systems science methods to better understand what types of interventions are most effective in addressing child obesity within various social contexts.

Professor Vinay Lal has been faculty at UCLA since 1993 and teaches for the Departments of Asian American Studies and History. He has held several fellowship including Fellow of the World Academy Art and Science in 2000 and has served as the University of California's Director of the Education Abroad Program in India. The Center published *The Other Indians: Politics and Culture of South Asians in America* as part of its Professor-in-a-Pocket Series.

Professor Sean Metzger was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure of Performance Studies in the School of Theater, Film, and Television. The Center will be hosting a book talk for his recently released book *Chinese Looks: Fashion, Performance, Race* (Indiana University Press) in Winter Quarter. He is currently a Framing the Global Fellow with Indiana University and Indiana University Press. Metzger is now working on a book centered around the Chinese Atlantic.

PROFESSOR PURNIMA MANKEKAR RECEIVES HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE, PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSOR

Congratulations to **Professor Purnima Mankekar** of the Departments of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies! She was chosen as the 2013-2014 recipient of the **C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA**. One student expressed support of her nomination stating, "Dr. Mankekar has been one of the most dedicated professors I have ever had, in both my undergraduate and graduate academic careers. Her passion for teaching and mentorship is unparalleled, and she has been the most valuable academic relationship that I have cultivated at UCLA."

The late **C. Doris Hoshide**, Class of 1934, of Rockville, MD, established the teaching prize to recognize an outstanding professor in Asian American Studies. She and her husband were longtime supporters of Asian American Studies at UCLA. The Hoshide Prize includes a one thousand dollar reward.

Mankekar was also promoted this year to the rank of Full Professor. Mankekar received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Washington and since joining UCLA faculty in 2006, she has taught courses on transnational media, post-colonial critique, feminist theory and ethnography, and South Asian studies. She is the author of *Screening Culture, Viewing Politics: An Ethnography of Television, Womanhood and Nation in Postcolonial India* and the forthcoming, *Unsettling India: Affect, Temporality, Transnationality* (Duke University Press), which will be featured in an upcoming Center book talk.

FAC NEWS

- **Professor Ninez Ponce** was appointed Director of FSPH Center for Global and Immigrant Health.
- **Professor Lucy Burns** was honored with the 2013-2014 Asian American Graduate Student Appreciation Award. She also received the 2014 Cultural Studies Book Prize from the Association of Asian American Studies for *Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stages of Empire* (NYU Press).
- **Interim Vice Provost for International Studies Cindy Fan** served as a 2013-14 American Council on Education Fellow.
- **Professor Jerry Kang** was in residence at the Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law & Justice at NYU School of Law as a Straus Fellow and the David M. Friedman Fellow for the 2013-14 academic year.
- **Professors Mitchell Chang and Grace Hong** each received 2014-15 Faculty Research Grants from the University of California Center for New Race Studies.
- **Professor Randall Akee** was named one of the 2014-15 UCLA Hellman Fellows.



Endowed Chairholders and Professors Renee Tajima-Peña, Jerry Kang, Robert Teranishi and Lane Hirabayashi talking about their research and projects at an FAC meeting.

- **Professor Snehendu Kar** was awarded a 2014-15 Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Chair by the U.S.-India Educational Foundation.
- **Professor Hiroshi Motomura** published *Immigration Outside the Law* (Oxford University Press).
- **Professor Michelle Caswell** published *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia* (University of Washington Press).
- **Professor Rachel Lee** published *The Exquisite Corpse of Asian America: Biopolitics, Biosociality, and Posthuman Ecologies* (NYU Press).

ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Twenty-seven undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their work at the Center's **Annual Awards and Alumni Reception** on Saturday, October 25th. The event took place at the Faculty Center's California Room. Family and friends came to support the awardees as they received certificates commemorating their achievements and research that have earned them grants, scholarships, fellowships, internships, and academic prizes. Also in attendance was **Mr. Stanley Kwok Lau**, one of the many donors whose ongoing and generous support make these awards possible.

The reception featured a special panel of current and former student awardees. Moderated by Publications Coordinator **Mary Kao**, the panel brought together **Sophia Cheng** (AAS MA, 2013; Don Nakanishi Award for Engaged Scholarship 2012-2013) with two of this year's winners, undergraduate **Mitchell Lee** and **Heidi Tuason**, a DrPH student. They shared their personal experiences, learned insights, and appreciation for what the awards have done for them.

Thank you to all those who attended this year's event! If you are interested in applying for any of the Center's almost three dozen awards or in donating to support student scholarship and research, please visit our website or contact Meg Thornton (meg@ucla.edu). Applications are due in late February.



Professor Lisa Kim Davis with undergraduate academic prize awardees Teryn Hara, Linda Ton, Jenny Huang, Michael Tran, Rebecca Tang, Alice Li, and Nicole Ngaosi



Graduate student awardees Heidi Tuason and Rita Phetmixay



Awardee Panelists Sophia Cheng, Mitchell Lee, and Heidi Tuason with moderator Mary Kao



Undergraduate scholarship awardees Jessica Thach, Cherry Lai, Mitchell Lee, Alvin Bui, and Jack Szuwei Chen with Professor Lisa Kim Davis

JESSICA THACH ON HOPE

When I won the **Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship**, I noticed my loved ones around me were a lot more excited than I was. It's not that I wasn't happy about winning. Growing up the way I did, the place I did, the time I did—I knew that if I wanted to further my education, I had to apply or there was no possible way that I could afford UCLA. I had been conditioned to believe that it was necessary, but that it wasn't a big deal and I never thought that I would be recognized for my commitment to serve my community.

With my passions for community development and youth empowerment, I have been involved in diverse community-based and student organizations serving the communities of Oakland, San Gabriel Valley, Orange County, and the Greater Los Angeles Area. With my recent experience as the Student Project Director for the **Higher Opportunity Program for Education (HOPE)**, I developed skills necessary to manage a staff team, write budget proposals and evaluations, build strong relationships with site administrators and community contacts, and revamp curricula to accommodate the needs of the youth and community. Project HOPE is a program that is dear to my heart. It is a privilege to work with at-risk Southeast Asian high school youth because I once was one of them—growing up without the support needed to overcome their struggles while navigating the education system.

I view my community service work as an opportunity to give back, considering how my family and mentors invested much of their time and efforts to ensure that I pursue higher education and do great things. I also see my community service work as a way to practice nontraditional academic research because I have the power to shift the approach to education.

As I said, winning did not seem like a big deal—but I want to take this time to acknowledge that it IS a big deal. It's times like this that I remind myself that I can be proud of myself for all the accomplishments I have made and I can share this moment with the people I love. This scholarship belongs to my family, my friends, my community. I didn't do this for me, I did this for them. I may be the face that goes on the scholarship program, but when I was up there getting this award, I was representing everyone around me because I get to practice what I preach—making the sacrifices necessary to leave this place better than how I found it.

My work doesn't stop here. My mission in life is to empower underrepresented communities to reach critical consciousness with compassion. I strongly believe that we are built on the sacrifice and efforts of those before us. To pay it forward, it is my responsibility to ensure my community is sustainable for future generations. Even though I have had all the reasons in the world to give up, I didn't and never will. Sometimes, all we need is the impact of HOPE. And that changes everything.

Jessica Thach is a fourth-year Asian American Studies major and currently works as the Center's SCE Assistant.



Louie Thach, Chan Saeturn, Jessica Thach, and Calvin Thach.

NEW PILIPINO STUDIES RESEARCH SERIES LAUNCHED

For the 2014-2015 academic year, a series of panels featuring works on Pilipino Studies will be held at UCLA. The **Pilipino Studies Research Series** seeks to increase support for faculty, students, and staff working on Pilipino Studies-related research; create a stronger network among researchers; and make visible UCLA's resources for those doing work in Pilipino Studies.

With a growing number of faculty whose work focus in this area—in departments ranging from History, to Asian American Studies, Film/Digital Media Studies, School of Management, Community Health Sciences—UCLA continues to be a site for new and innovative research in Pilipino Studies. UCLA houses an unprocessed collection of Anti-Martial Law Movement materials. Long-term staff and adjunct teachers who are experts in Pilipino languages and Philippine history enrich campus resources. The Asian American Studies Department uniquely offers a Pilipino Studies Concentration within the major. This Series highlights UCLA's vital resources in this area of research.

The first panel was held on October 31st, 2014, with speakers sharing their work on new media, performance, and archiving. They focused on new ways of producing and presenting knowledge, especially as it applies to art and culture, as well as on the different ways that information can be collected and curated. Speakers included **Professor Sarita See**, of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside and founder of the web-based non-profit Center for Art and Thought (CA+T); English major undergraduate **Martina Dorff** and her performance-based research, as she "embrace[s] the spectacle" of people guessing her racial background; and **Jade Albuero**, the librarian for Southeast Asian and Pacific Islands Studies, and her research project on library collections.

On Thursday, November 20th, the second panel focused on cinema, documentation, and Martial cultures. **Associate**

Professor J.B. Capino of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign drew from his book manuscript, provisionally called *Martial Law Melodrama: Lino Brocka and the Cinema of Authoritarianism*. Recent graduate **Seth Ronquillo** presented "Balikbayan Cinema," speaking on the ways that film captures the immigrant experience. Graduate student and scholar-activist **Heidi Tuason**, shared her presentation "Mga Malikhaing Solusyon Para sa Kalusugang Pampubliko" (Creative Solutions for Public Health) on her research around culturally-appropriate creative methods to address mental health, domestic and sexual violence, and reproductive health in immigrant communities of color.

Future panels will focus on critical approaches to Filipino language teaching and genealogy. Support for this Series is provided by the Center, Asian American Studies Department, the Young Research Library, the International Institute, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Professors **Lucy Burns** and **Jasmine Trice**, **Dr. Barbara Gaerlan**, **Jade Albuero**, and **Meg Thornton** voluntarily organized this Series.



Panelists Professor Sarita See, Martina Dorff and Jade Albuero from the first series event in October. (Photo Courtesy of Florante Ibanez)

PROFESSOR VALERIE MATSUMOTO'S CITY GIRLS WELCOMED BY UCLA COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950 (Oxford University Press) is the newest publication by **Professor Valerie Matsumoto**. The book focuses on the little-



Center Director and Professor David Yoo, Sadie Hifumi, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, Valerie Matsumoto, Rose Honda, Vicki Mittwer Littman, Kathi Yamazaki and Professor Jinqi Ling at the City Girls book talk at UCLA.

known history of youth clubs that brought together Japanese American girls in Los Angeles before and after World War II. On May 7th, the Center hosted a special book talk and celebration with Matsumoto that featured former members and relatives of these clubs. These special guests were **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga**, **Sadie Hifumi**, **Rose Honda**, **Vicki Mittwer Littman** (daughter of Mary Oyama Mittwer), and **Kathi Yamazaki**. A mix of students, faculty, staff, and community members attended and lined up to have copies of the book signed. The event at the Young Research Library was co-sponsored by the Departments of Asian American Studies and History.

Matsumoto later appeared on C-Span as part of Book TV's College Series and in a PRI piece entitled "How wartime prejudice brought young Japanese Americans together for life." The *Los Angeles Times* also released a feature story on Matsumoto, her book, and several of the clubs' participants in the story "For a Nisei Sisterhood, It's Yesterday Once More," published on October 21st.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Since the Center's inception, we have had the privilege and good fortune to work with and support many important individuals in the Asian American community. We remember some of those whom we have lost this past year.

- **Frederic "Uncle Fred" Cordova** was the founding President of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). One of the most prominent community scholars of Filipino American History, he was also a professor on the subject at the University of Washington and helped lead the push for Filipino American History Month. SCE Coordinator **Meg Thornton** shared her thoughts and memories of Uncle Fred on the Center website, especially his passion and wisdom in leading FANHS with his wife Dorothy. He passed away December 21st, 2013. He was 82 years old.
- **Alain Dang**, Urban Planning MA Alum, queer activist, and former policy analyst with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, passed away in February 2014 at the age of 37. He co-authored the groundbreaking report *Living in the Margins: A National Survey of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islander Americans*, released in May 2007. Center Assistant Director **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** remembered Dang in a special piece written for the *Hyphen Magazine* blog (March 2014), citing "his passion to make a difference from every angle is reflected by this goal and his dedication to serve the people—as a student activist, community organizer, researcher, policy analyst, planner, and friend. Alain always seemed like he was on a quest to figure out how to make a difference—as a jack of all trades and master of many."
- **Chol Soo Lee** passed away on December 2, 2014. In 1973, Chol Soo Lee, an immigrant from Korea, was wrongfully arrested and convicted for the murder of a San Francisco Chinatown gang member. Chol Soo Lee's case was one of the first political causes to mobilize the Asian American community across the country. It was only with the investigative reporting of K. W. Lee and with the help of supporters, such as the Free Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee, and his legal team that he was able to be cleared of two separate murder charges, the first individual in U.S. history to do so. His release from prison after years on death row was the result of a successful widespread and pan-Asian American grassroots effort to win his freedom. He later spent his life engaging with students and the community through speaking events that focused on his experiences in the California Prison System. The Center is proud to have been able to bring Chol Soo Lee to Los Angeles last year in honor of the thirty year anniversary of his release from his prison.

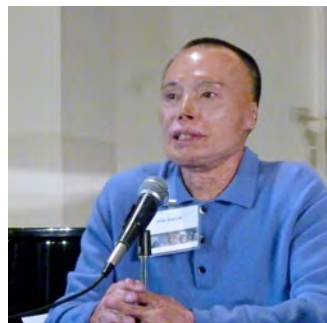


Panelists at "Hearing the Silent Plea." From left to right: Professor Richard Kim, Chol Soo Lee, K.W. Lee, Warren Furutani, Jai Lee Wong, and Tom Byun.

THIRTY YEARS AFTER FREEDOM FOR CHOL SOO LEE

People from near and far gathered together for a special event on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Kardia United Methodist Church in West Los Angeles. "Hearing the Silent Plea: Thirty Years After Freedom for Chol Soo Lee" marked the anniversary of his release from death row after a wrongful murder conviction. A roundtable of speakers reflected on the Free Chol Soo Lee movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s that demonstrated early pan-Asian, transnational and inter-generational activism. Speakers included **Chol Soo Lee** himself and activists and writers such as **K. W. Lee, Tom Byun, Warren Furutani, Grace Kim, Jai Lee Wong, and Mike Suzuki**. UC Davis **Professor Richard Kim** moderated. The panel discussed how the movement was inspiring and transformative for many students and community activists around the nation. They emphasized the power of building a movement and the need for people to take action together against injustice.

Audience members spanned the movement's participants to current students from UCLA and California State University Northridge, who were finding out about the case for the first time. Materials documenting the community's activism around Chol Soo Lee were specially curated by the Center's Library/Reading Room and placed on display at the event. *Amerasia Journal* has chronicled the movement over the years, including an excerpt from his memoir and a retrospective forum with great images in a recent volume (Issue 39:3 - 2013). Key sponsorship came from the Center's *Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* Endowed Chair in Korean American Studies and Law, the Department of Asian American Studies at UC Davis, the Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at UC Riverside, and the K. W. Lee Center for Leadership. Co-sponsors included



Chol Soo Lee speaking last December.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association, and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Undergraduate Association. Video and photos from the event are available on the Center website.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS DIGITIZE AND PRESERVE VOICES OF JARP'S "BURIED PAST"

The Center is honored to participate in a strategic research collaboration with **UCLA Library Special Collections**, **Waseda University** (Tokyo), and **National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics** (Tokyo) that will enhance access to and aid in preserving the **Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection's** oral history tapes. In addition to the support provided by the four collaborators, generous support for the digitization project has been received from the late **Dr. and Mrs. Sanbo Sakaguchi** as well as the **Aratani CARE grant**, with UCLA sponsor **Director Emeritus Don Nakanishi**.

The JARP Collection is one of the most significant archived body of primary and secondary materials on the history of Japanese immigrants and their descendants. The JARP's oral history tapes, deposited in Special Collections, represent more than 300 taped interviews, the majority of which are of early Japanese American pioneers, conducted more than fifty years ago from 1964 to 1969.

Originally recorded onto 1/4-inch reel-to-reel audiotapes, the voices and stories of these pioneers are being transferred from magnetic audiotape into digital format. Until now such an undertaking was thought cost prohibitive and considered even technically impossible to restore "unintelligible interviews," however, this collaboration will now make



Equipment used by the digitization team.

feasible and enable acoustic recoveries. The Center's **Marjorie Lee** and **Tam Nguyen**, together with Special Collections, will coordinate and manage the digitization process, while conversion transfers and sound editing will be undertaken by Japan's technical team, headed by Waseda University **Professor Emeritus Yoshio Yamasaki** and his colleague, **Otonobu Yasojima**. Waseda University **Professor Toyotomi Morimoto** is Japan's principal research project director, along with **Professor Yoshiyuki Asahi** of the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics.

Once the digital conversions are complete, Special Collections will make the oral history tapes available to the public. Funds permitting, the Center and Waseda also plan to compile an annotated registry with brief abstracts of JARP's oral histories, published in both English and Japanese. Of its seminal role to future research, Center Director **Professor David K. Yoo** remarked, "Our researchers, scholars, and public will then be able to hear the many voices of JARP's 'buried past,'" making reference to previous published bibliographies and registries on the JARP Collection: *A Buried Past* (Ichioka, Sakata,



Tsuchida, Yasuhara, 1974); *Fading Footsteps of the Issei* (Sakata, 1992); and *A Buried Past II* (Ichioka and Azuma, 1999). For more information on the latter two publications available for purchase, contact the Center Press at aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu.

COMMUNITY SEMINAR FOCUSED ON INCARCERATION, INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Native Incarceration & Native Relations: A Community Seminar took place on June 22nd. It was meant to engage community members, students, alumni, staff and faculty on the topics of incarceration and inter-ethnic community relations among Pacific Islanders.

The group read several articles on these topics, watched films and engaged in spirited discussion about these topics. **Professor Keith Camacho** facilitated and strove to link the various theories on these topics with the wide range of personal experiences and cultural knowledge on these and other issues. Camacho hopes to continue to discuss these topics and do further research.



Keith Camacho leading the seminar. (Photo courtesy of Richard Calvin Chang)

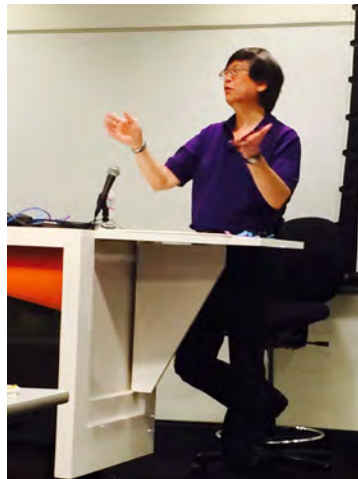
One of the attendees, **Richard Calvin Chang**, who is Project Manager at Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), stated, "It's extremely valuable for those doing community work on the ground to connect with academics like Professor Keith Camacho who can provide a broader perspective of the work that we do and keep us up to date on what's going on in the Pacific Islander communities. For example, the Marshallese community in Hawai'i being discriminated against by other communities in Hawai'i, which also exists in Orange County, California. It's important for us to see how racism and cultural privilege manifests itself in our community on the continent. We also viewed interesting DVDs of cartoons about Pacific Islanders from New Zealand which showed how racism and stereotypes continue to be portrayed. It's important for us to understand what is being discussed about and by Pacific Islanders in other parts of the world."

Participants included representatives from EPIC, students from University of Redlands, Pitzer College, UCLA, and Center faculty and staff.

PHOTOGRAPHER CORKY LEE VISITS UCLA AS REGENT LECTURER

Renowned photographer **Corky Lee** came to campus during Winter Quarter as one of the recipients of the 2013-2014 Regents' Lecturers Award. Along with the Asian American Studies Department and the Department of Urban Planning, the Center co-hosted Lee's visit, which included a public talk and a field trip with students from Asian American Studies 101, taught by Professor Paul Ong. On February 20th, Lee spoke to a lecture room filled with students, faculty, staff, and community members and exhibited some of his iconic photos.

Lee also spent time meeting with students and signing copies of Center publications, such as issues of *Amerasia Journal*, *Asian Americans on War and Peace*, and *The New Face of Asian Pacific America*, that featured many of his photographs.



Corky Lee sharing stories and insights from his prolific work documenting Asian Pacific America.



Center Librarian Marji Lee at CHSSC's Annual Dinner on May 31st.

COMMUNITY AND ALUMNI NEWS

- Education MA alum and former IAC Visiting Researcher **Sharon Luk** joined the University of Oregon faculty as an Assistant Professor of the English Department, with an Ethnic Studies Department affiliation.
- **Brandy Liên Worrall-Soriano**, AAS MA alum and former Associate Editor for *Amerasia Journal*, published her memoir *What Doesn't Kill Us* (Rabbit Fool Press 2014).
- **Jean-Paul DeGuzman**, AAS MA and History PhD alum, is the 2014-15 Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California Center for New Racial Studies.
- **Tadashi Nakamura**, AAS MA alum and EthnoCommunications instructor, won the Audience Award at the 2013 Gotham Independent Films Awards for his film *Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings*.
- **Tara Fickle**, English MA and PhD alum and recipient of multiple graduate student awards from the Center, joined the English Department Faculty as an assistant professor at the University of Oregon. She is also affiliated with their Asian Studies and Ethnic Studies departments.
- **Mary Keovisai**, AAS MA alum, was named Executive Director of National Lao American Community and Development, Inc (NLACED).
- **R. Benedito Ferrao**, AAS MA alum, recently served as an Endeavor Postdoctoral Research Fellow at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia and is currently a Mellon Faculty Fellow in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the College of William and Mary.
- Recent graduate **Kim Yamasaki**, who was a former student assistant at the Center's Asian American Library/Reading Room and recipient of the Stanley Kwok and Dora Wong Lau Endowed Undergraduate Research Scholarship in Chinese American History, was named Assistant Executive Director of CAUSE.
- Former Center Office Manager **Irene Suico Soriano** was a featured participant in Voices of LA: The Krupnick Festival of Arts.

MARJI LEE HONORED WITH GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

Congratulations to **Marjorie Lee**, Center librarian and archivist, who was chosen as a recipient of a 2014 Golden Spike Award by the **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California** (CHSSC). She was honored for her editorial leadership and contributions towards the publication of *Duty and Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California*. Lee, who is also an Asian MA and MLIS alum, accepted the award at CHSSC's Annual Dinner in May.

FLORANTE IBANEZ NAMED TO CA LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

The Center congratulates **Florante Ibanez** on his appointment to the California Library Services Board by Governor Jerry Brown. Ibanez earned an MA in Asian American Studies and an MLIS from UCLA and worked as the Resource Development and Publications Coordinator at the Center. He currently works at Loyola Law School, serving as manager of their library computer services. He also teaches as adjunct faculty in the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University.



Hon. Judge Casimiro Tolentino swearing in Florante Ibanez, with his wife Roselyn by his side. (Photo courtesy of Florante Ibanez)

Ibanez was sworn in on July 9th at Loyola Law School by another UCLA alum and retired judge **Casimiro Tolentino**. Tolentino is one of the founders of the Center and a long-time supporter.

STUDENT JAZZ KIANG ON THE DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT

Working with UCLA's Asian Pacific Coalition has been a process of redefining my personal goals and aligning them with my visions for lasting, positive change. Nonetheless, situating them within the longer timelines of history is a daily challenge.

The **Diversity Requirement** is unique for this, as it has been an effort of numerous communities of students with a legacy built upon the activism of our predecessors. Most importantly, it has continued to unite us in seeing the broader picture – and herein lies the organizing power of the Asian Pacific Coalition, Vietnamese Student Union, Pacific Islands Student Association, and more.

Last year's organizing was critical to re-initiating the conversation once more after the failed attempt in 2012. It was the work of our Asian Pacific Islander student leaders—responding to the flyer incident at the Asian American Studies Center and organizing a large town hall event—that garnered a new grassroots mass, as well as a call from Chancellor Block.

But the Diversity Requirement has been an effort of all communities that have historically been advocating for equity in higher education. We all campaigned positively this year, from written postcards left in faculty mailboxes to student lobbying on an individual basis.

However, the emergence of faculty opposition was disappointing and equally disgusting, specifically when certain professors disrespected the histories of Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, and LGBT Studies programs. White supremacy and bigotry are alive in higher education and even at UCLA. Inadequate resources, tenureship cases, discrimination, microaggressions—these encompass what students now observe as “diversity incompetence” in real time. But we persevered.

CENTER BRINGS AUTHORS, SCHOLARS, FILMS TO UCLA

This past calendar year, the Center has helped to welcome various alumni, writers, researchers, and filmmakers to UCLA and the Los Angeles community to share their work. These included a graduate student workshop with **Ellen Wu** and her book *The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Model Minority*, a book talk and signing for **Judy Wu's** *Radicals on the Road*, and a guest lecture with NYU's **Karen Shimakawa** on playwright Young Jean Lee. A symposium with **Professor Helle Rydstrom** of Lund University and Center Associate Director & **Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo** was held. The Center was also proud to present a special roundtable discussion featuring editors and authors of the anthology *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/o America*.

In addition, the Center sponsored an afternoon screening of *A Flicker in Eternity: Based on the Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami*, followed by a Q&A with film co-director **Ann Kaneko**. Presented by the Center for EthnoCommunications, Professor **Valerie Soe** of San Francisco State University visited

We are not grounded with the same reality of the Ethnic Studies first generation. Nor are we grounded with the same reality of what Jeff Chang mentioned—in his recent visit—as the “Ethnic Studies second generation.” Now, in 2014, I am unsure what generation I fit in and I feel even less sure if Ethnic Studies students can be regarded generationally anymore.

So what shapes our era of academia in challenging the status quo? What narratives of resistance will we remember from the 2000s and 2010s? Despite the uncertainty, perhaps the passage of the Diversity Requirement will lay there somewhere – as further legitimization of the need for access for and competence towards our communities in higher education.

To the students, faculty, and staff of the Asian American Studies Center, Department of Asian American Studies, other Ethnic Studies research centers and departments, and all campus entities: I'm thankful for your support throughout my time as well as throughout the past.

Three decades of student-initiated legacy is difficult to reconcile with; but the work of our predecessors, advisors, and allies guides us each and every day. This victory is meaningful to all of us, and hopefully it stretches beyond to many future steps along this journey.

Jazz Kiang is a third-year undergraduate student majoring in Asian American Studies and the Director of the Asian Pacific Coalition.



Professor Ellen Wu (center) with AAS MA graduate students Katie Wang, Kristin Fukushima, Stephanie Chang, and 'Amelia Niumeitolu.



Empire of Funk writers and editors with Center staff. Pictured: Stephen Bischoff, Joseph Allen Ruanto-Ramirez, Anna Alves, DJ Kuttin Kandi, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Mark Villegas, Cheryl Cambay, and Barbra Ramos.

UCLA in November and shared her work-in-progress “**Love Boat: Taiwan.**” Ethno also co-sponsored the Bunche Center's screening of **Thomas Allen Harris's** *Through a Scanner Darkly*.

PROFESSOR PAUL ONG CHOSEN FOR NAKANISHI AWARD FOR ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The 2013-14 recipient of the **Don T. Nakanishi Award for Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA** is **Professor Paul Ong**

of the Luskin School of Public Affairs, who also holds appointments in Asian American Studies and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. He is a long-time member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and serves as the Senior Editor of *AAPI Nexus Journal*. A prolific scholar with over seventy published articles and nine authored/edited books, Ong has also taught key service-learning courses for both graduate and undergraduate students.



He received tremendous support and was strongly endorsed by colleagues, community leaders and students to be honored. One shared that "Dr. Ong has always sought to pursue research that is relevant to key issues in API communities, and more importantly, to work with community organizations who are engaged in those issues [...] At the same time, Dr. Ong maintains the highest standards of academic integrity in the research—he provides us with accurate data, analysis and the facts, even if sometimes the facts run counter to what we may have assumed—which is ultimately what is most needed and useful to inform our work."

The award is from an endowment established to recognize faculty and students who reflect the dedication and contributions of Center Director Emeritus and Professor Emeritus Don Nakanishi. It rotates annually between students and faculty.

U.S. CENSUS RELEASES 2014 AANHPI STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

The Center, an official U.S. Census Information Center, released the latest statistical portrait of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander populations in the U.S. Produced as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May, this portrait covers a range of findings such as:

- 18.9 million U.S. residents in 2012 who identified as Asian, either alone or in combination.
- California has the largest Asian population, reporting 6.0 million, followed by New York with 1.7 million reporting Asian, either alone or in combination.
- 47 percent of Asians turned out to vote in 2012, for a total of 3.9 million.
- 270,630 Asian alone population military veterans in 2012, with one in three age 65 and older.
- 32,203 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander veterans, with about one in four age 65 and older.

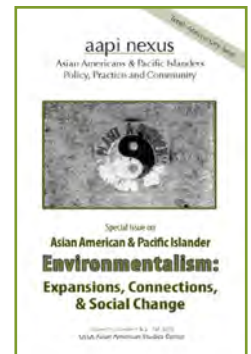
More information can be found on the Center's website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/cic/stats2014.aspx>.

AAPI NEXUS FEATURED AT WASHINGTON DC EVENTS, ANNOUNCES TRANSITION TO ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

AAPI Nexus 11:1-2 "Asian American and Pacific Islander Environmentalism: Expansions, Connections, and Social Change" marked the 10th Anniversary of the journal. The issue also commemorated the 20th Anniversary of Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and focused on issues of environmental justice, education, and immigration.

The issue has been well-received and *AAPI Nexus* Senior Editor **Professor Paul Ong** spoke at several events in Washington DC where the special issue was featured and discussed with students, government agency professionals, researchers and policy makers. The events were organized in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. For more information, see: <http://apaics.org/apaicsepapanel2014/>.

After the release of Issue 12:1-2 on federally qualified health centers, *AAPI Nexus* will shift from a biannual to an annual release schedule in 2015. The single journal release, slated for the fall of each year, will be bigger and similar to a double issue, combining content from both the Spring and Fall issues. For questions regarding this change, contact the Center Press at aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu.



UPCOMING FROM AAPI NEXUS

AAPI Nexus Journal is proud to announce these special issues!

Issue 12:1-2 *Special Issue on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, & Pacific Islanders and Health Services Provided through Federally Qualified Health Centers*
Consulting Guest Editors: Professor Ninez Ponce (UCLA), Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer (UCLA), and Dr. Shao-Chee Sim (Charles B. Wang Community Health Center)

Issue 13 *Special Issue on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, & Pacific Islanders: Wealth Inequality and Developing Paths to Financial Security*
Consulting Guest Editors: Lisa Hasegawa (National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development) and C. Aujean Lee (UCLA)

Don't miss out on an issue! To order an issue or to subscribe, contact Center Press—email aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu or call 310/825-2968.

ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS NEWS AND FILMS

The Center for EthnoCommunications was proud to have three student films selected to screen at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival as part of the VC Digital Posse 2014—"Sessions LA" by **Tom Wang**, "Family Time" by **Jean Okamoto** and "Remember Me" by **Anny Lim**. EthnoComm films like these can be checked out for educational use. For more information or to request a catalog of over 100 student films, please contact Gena at ghamamoto@ucla.edu.

EthnoComm was also awarded a grant through the Office of Instructional Development to produce an online video production knowledge base. The **EthnoComm eTutorial** will help non-film students learn how to create their media projects.



Gena Hamamoto with AAS 142C filmmakers Heidi Tuason, Jennifer Xiong, Rita Phetmixay, Ryan Louie and Beth Kopacz.

Center for EthnoCommunications Director **Renee Tajima-Peña** and Assistant Director **Gena Hamamoto** continued to work with students to add to their growing catalogue of film

productions. The following films from Asian American Studies 142C: Creating Community Media class debuted at the annual screening in June 2014:

PHETMIXAY MEANS FIGHTER

Dir. **RITA PHETMIXAY**

Filmmaker and daughter of a Lao refugee, Rita Phetmixay travels home to find out why her father didn't talk to her for a year after she turned down an offer to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

THE WRONG RIGHT ONE

Dir. **RYAN LOUIE**

A student meets a former gang leader, George "Gino" Harvey, in Westwood, CA, the wealthy college town associated with UCLA. They form a friendship while working on Gino's autobiography in the late hours of the night.

NO CHICKENS, NO LIFE

Dir. **JENNIFER XIONG**

After losing her brother in Laos, Zoua Vang resettled in the suburbs of Merced County. This Hmong refugee woman continues the tradition of raising chickens to help her find strength, health and prosperity.

DIVE-ING INTO HEALING

Dir. **HEIDI T. TUASON**

A behind the scenes look at the grassroots theater performance "Dive" that strings together the performers' own stories about mental health in the Filipino American community.

WHO IS PARK JOO YOUNG?

Dir. **BETH KOPACZ**

Korean adoptee Robyn Schultz reconsiders the meaning of family, belonging, and reunion through her struggle to find her birth family.

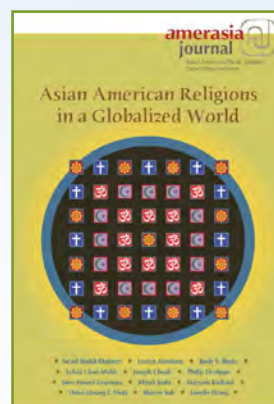
LATEST AMERASIA UPDATES AND ISSUES

EDITORIAL BOARD TRANSITIONS

Under the guidance of Editor **Professor Keith L. Camacho**, the journal proudly welcomes its newest members, representing a mix of academia and community organizations, to its illustrious editorial board. The new members are: **Cathy Schlund-Vials** (University of Connecticut), **Teresia Teaiwa** (Victoria University of Wellington), **'Alisi Tulua** (Empowering Pacific Islander Communities), **Monna Wong** (Asians and Pacific Islanders for LGBT Equality), and **Lisa Yoneyama** (University of Toronto). *Amerasia* expresses its deepest thanks its outgoing board members—**Mitchell Chang** (UCLA), **Clara Chu** (University of North Carolina), **Lane Hirabayashi** (UCLA), **Vijay Prashad** (Trinity College), and **Helen Zia** (author/journalist, San Francisco)—all of whom have contributed greatly to the journal for many years.

ASIAN AMERICAN RELIGIONS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Amerasia first extensively explored religion in 1996 with the groundbreaking "Racial Spirits." Issue 40:1 is the most recent investigation of religion by the journal. Guest-edited by **Sylvia Chan-Malik** (Rutgers University) and **Khyati Y. Joshi** (Farleigh



Dickinson University), this new issue attends to religion's role in Asian American and Asian immigrant communities in the post-9/11 era. Authors tackle the intersections of religion with race, gender, social politics, and perceptions.

ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL POLITICS ACROSS PLATFORMS

Guest edited by **Victor Bascara** (UCLA) and **Lisa Nakamura** (University of Michigan), Issue 40:2 provides a nuanced look into the relationship between Asian American Studies and the emerging field of platform studies. Covering a wide range of media, from conceptual art to music video, photography to video gaming, the issue examines how the most contemporary forms of cultural representation shape the identities of their consumers and users. 40:2 also marks the passing of civil rights pioneer **Yuri Kochiyama** with a personal tribute by **Mary Kao**.

UPCOMING FROM AMERASIA

Amerasia Journal staff are proud to announce these special issues!



Issue 40:3 Open Topic

featuring:

Forum on Yuri Kochiyama

Ben Higa on graffiti artist TEMPT

Lucie Cheng Prize Essay by Jungha Kim

Issue 41:1 Indigenous Asias

Guest Edited by Professors Greg Dvorak

(Hitotsubashi University) and Miyume

Tanji (Australian National University)

Issue 41:2 Sport in Asian America

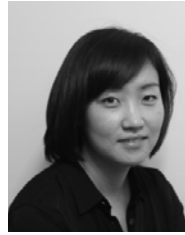
Guest Edited by Professors Rachael

Joo (Middlebury College) and Sameer

Pandya (UC Santa Barbara)

Don't miss out on an issue! To order an issue or to subscribe, contact AASC Press—email aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu or call 310/825-2968.

LUCIE CHENG PRIZE WINNER: JUNGHA KIM



The 2013-14 **Lucie Cheng Prize** for outstanding graduate research was awarded to **Jungha Kim** of the University of Pennsylvania. She recently received her PhD from the Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, working on transnational Asian American literature.

Her advisor, Professor Josephina Park, nominated Kim's essay "'I'm Still at War with Myself...in This Beautiful Terrible City': Transnational Adoption and Endless Labor in Jane Jeong Trenka's *Fugitive Visions*."

Started in 2011, the prize is named after Professor Cheng who served as Director of the Center from 1972 to 1987 and was a pioneering scholar who brought an early transnational focus to the study of Asian Americans and issues such as gender, labor, and immigration. Prize recipients receive \$1500 and publication of their essay in *Amerasia*. Nominations are due annually in October.

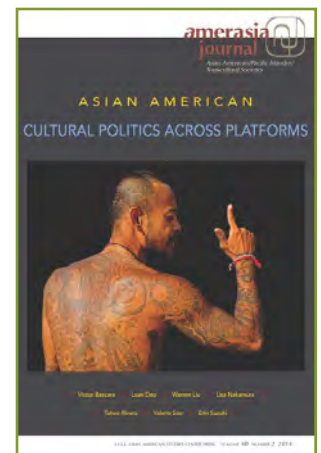
AMERASIA GUEST EDITORS VICTOR BASCARA AND LISA NAKAMURA REFLECT ON "ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL POLITICS ACROSS PLATFORMS"

We were fortunate to have had this opportunity to feature the diverse and resonant research in the latest special issue of *Amerasia Journal*, with the theme of "**Asian American Cultural Politics Across Platforms**." Our call for papers was initially motivated by a desire to both draw on and go beyond what has been done with traditional objects of aesthetic culture in Asian American Studies. We had in mind work committed to exploring the capacities and limits of adopting and adapting emerging platforms for expressing and acting on political desires. The innovative work assembled for this issue appreciates the challenges of such compelling and oft-quoted statements as "the revolution will not be televised" (Gil Scott-Heron) and "the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house" (Audre Lorde). Scott-Heron and Lorde are indeed right, effectively then issuing a call for vigilantly committed creativity and vigilantly creative commitment.

The transdisciplinary scholarship in this special issue energetically takes up this challenge by looking at what happens when emerging forms meet persistent desires. A phrase from scholar and documentary producer Loan Dao's contribution to the issue offers a useful formulation of the stakes of this creativity in her article on Southeast Asian refugee youth culture: "creating alternative platforms that transcend the social locations deemed detrimental to their upward mobility" (90).

Dao expresses how the forging of such alternative platforms engages with sustained inequality while also questioning the terms of how political desires achieve recognition. (We are proud that our co-edited issue also features Mary Uyematsu Kao's eloquent tribute to the life and work of the late and truly great activist Yuri Kochiyama, a figure who was a model of persistent critique and creative, meaningful organizing across movements).

It has been gratifying to see how this special issue of *Amerasia* has provided a shared space for considering how diverse creative and technological traditions—from social media, documentaries, viral videos, and the novel to art photography, hip hop, video games, and theater—rearticulate and transform Asian American cultural politics. Each individual article is a rigorous exploration of platform-crossing adaptations, and collectively the issue draws out resonances that might otherwise go unnoticed. We hope that this collection of new and original Asian American Studies scholarship contributes to and extends critical work, perhaps even leading to newly effective platforms not yet realized.



NEW POLITICAL ALMANAC MARKS FIRST DIGITAL RELEASE

Now in its fifteenth edition, the **National Asian Pacific Political Almanac**, edited by **Don T. Nakanishi** and **James Lai**, reflects the vast growth of the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in the United States. The first edition in 1976 listed only around 100 public officials; now there are more than 4,000 major appointed or elected AAPI officials.

Dedicated to the late **Hon. Senator Daniel K. Inouye**, the edition also marks recent political milestones such as:



- The first Asian American woman, the first Asian immigrant woman, and the first Buddhist is elected to the Senate as Mazie Hirono of Hawai'i wins in 2012.
- In 2012, the first Samoan American woman and the first Hindu American, Tulsi Gabbard, also of Hawai'i, is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- There have been more Asian Americans elected as governors than any other ethnic minority.

Included in the almanac are lists of major Asian Pacific American political, civil rights, and advocacy organizations and leaders. Top political scientists and community leaders such as **Sefa Aina**, **Calvin Chang**, **Jeff Chang**, **Kim Geron**, **Gene Kim**, **Taeku Lee**, **Pei-te Lien**, **Glenn D. Magpantay**, **Karthick Ramakrishnan**, and **Linda Trinh Vo** also shared political commentaries.

The Center is proud to be able to provide this edition in a digital format for the first time. Both print and digital editions, as well as several past editions, are available for purchase.

2014-2015 VISITING SCHOLARS

The Center's visiting scholars are **Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano**, sociologist **Dr. Jane Yamashiro**, **Dr. Lindsey Sasaki**, and **Professor Xuepin Jin**. **Kikumura-Yano**, a UCLA alum, is in her third year as a visiting scholar, working on her novel about the life of a young female, post-World War II Sansei.

Yamashiro, most recently a visiting scholar at the Center for Japanese Religions and Cultures at the University of Southern California, received her Sociology MA and PhD degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She comes to the Center to finish her book manuscript on Japanese American experiences in Tokyo while also doing research on projects focused on Okinawan Americans and the US-Japan Council.

Sasaki, who received her PhD from New York University, has research expertise on Asians in Latin America. She is interested in developing a new project on Latin American Asians who have migrated to Los Angeles.

Jin, a professor from Hubei Engineering University in China, will focus on researching Chinese American piety.

CENTER RECEIVES \$200K FORD FOUNDATION GRANT

The Center received a \$200,000 grant from the **Ford Foundation's Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime Initiative (BESOL)**. This grant builds upon a previous grant from the foundation that produced demographic reports for asset-building coalitions in specific geographic areas. These additional BESOL funds, covering projects from 2013-2015, will generate new knowledge on wealth inequality and financial security in the United States, especially in closing the racial wealth gap. **Professor Paul Ong** is the Principal Investigator of the project, while Assistant Director **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** serves as the Project Director. The previously published demographic reports, as well as a recent report on the foreclosure crisis in Los Angeles ethnic communities, are available on the Center's website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol/>.

2014-2015 IAC FELLOWSHIP AND GRANTS AWARDEES

GRADUATE/PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

PHI SU

PhD Student, Sociology

TITLE: Immigrant Political Resocialization and Incorporation

RESEARCH GRANTS

CHHANDARA PECH

UCLA Center for the Study of Inequality

TITLE: Welfare Trap: The Struggle for Intergenerational Mobility amongst Southeast Asians

STEPHANIE CHANG

MA Student, Asian American Studies

TITLE: What's Eating *Gidra*? Representation of Foodways in *Gidra*

MICAH KAMOE

MA Student, American Indian Studies

TITLE: Indigenous Entrepreneurship: Interviews with Native Hawaiian and Native American Business Owners

DARRAH KURATANI

PhD Student, Community Health Sciences

TITLE: An Ethnographic Exploration of Native Hawaiians' Sense of Well-Being

BACH MAI DOLLY NGUYEN

PhD Student, Social Sciences and Comparative Education

TITLE: Advancing the Data Quality Campaign: Data Disaggregation at California State University

RITA PHETMIXAY

MA Student, Asian American Studies

TITLE: Memory Works and Self-Reflection through Lao American Family Dynamics

WILLIAM TSAI

PhD Student, Psychology

TITLE: Cultural Differences in Emotion Expression and Suppression: Implications for Health and Well-Being

REFLECTIONS FROM 2013-2014 IAC VISITING RESEARCHER SHARON LUK

I feel wonderfully indebted to everyone who hosted me as an **IAC Visiting Research Scholar** at the Asian American Studies Center, and I am grateful as well for this invitation to share my experiences.

During my time, I enjoyed so much the exposure to multiple generations of scholars, activists, students, and cultural workers that keep the Center alive. It is a rarer privilege these days to inhabit a place where, in a single day, one can learn about contemporary questions and concerns from young people as they try to see their futures, alongside the richness of institutional and movement history from those who have lived through different seasons of change. Every day I came into the office, I looked forward to running into people in the hallways and sharing conversations, complaints, and laughs that brought a sense of fascination back to the mundane.



Sharon Luk (second from the right) at the IAC/Ethnic Studies Centers Holiday Potluck in 2013.

These improvised moments of learning punctuated more formal research and pedagogical activities going on around me at AASC. The diversity of projects and perspectives truly re-opened my eyes to intellectual terrains upon which I could create a space for myself.

Under this fellowship, I had the fortune of teaching a course through the Asian American Studies Department, in collaboration with the Afro-American Studies Program, called " 'Afro-Asian' Politics in U.S. History and Culture." I was thrilled to teach books published by AASC, as well as to invite longtime

AASC staff member Mary Uyematsu Kao to guest lecture in this class. As educators at a research-one university, it is a special pleasure to share classrooms with students who come from such a wealth of diverse backgrounds and experiences, whose differences maintain the possibility for more radically democratic learning communities. As a postdoctoral scholar myself at the time, still on the job market, I shared many of the same anxieties and hopes as I could see in students as they wondered where their educations could lead. The privilege of being their professor re-inspired in me a sense of purpose and place in higher education. I am happy still to hear from former students as they share their goals, thoughts, and questions with me.

Analogously, the support and mentorship I received during this fellowship made a dramatic difference in my preparedness for the academic job market, or perhaps more significantly, in my overall orientation towards it. The opportunity to share my work with others, and to benefit from many conversations with many people about how to move it forward, gave me both encouragement and structure to make progress on my book project. I must give special mention to my IAC sponsor, Dr. Grace Hong, for her brilliant editorial eye and most generous critical attention. All of this vibrant sharing and help made it possible to forge a pathway for my creative endeavors and ultimately, to secure a book contract with Fordham University Press. Moreover, such tremendous blessings helped carry me into a tenure-track position, a seemingly miraculous feat and one I barely believed could happen. My time at UCLA and AASC provided the guidance, focus, and resolve I needed to embrace fully the privileges and responsibilities of this profession. And, as I am still continually developing the courage to confront its contradictions and better my work, I have now a much stronger foundation and experiential knowledge of the kind of path I seek to make as an intellectual. A million thanks, everyone at AASC, for all of your gifts, talents, and care.

Sharon Luk is now an assistant professor in English and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon.

MARGARET RHEE JOINS CENTER AS IAC VISITING RESEARCHER

IAC hosted its annual fall forum on November 18th, celebrating the latest recipients of IAC fellowships and grants. The 2014-2015 IAC Visiting Researcher **Margaret Rhee** was featured in conversation with **Professor Rachel Lee** of the Department of English. Rhee received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in Ethnic Studies with a designated emphasis in New Media Studies. Rhee, who is also a new media artist and poet, is editing a book manuscript based on her dissertation, "How We Became Human: Race, the Robots, and the Asian American Body." Her research explores the human/machine analytic through the lens of race, gender, and sexuality. She is one of the co-founders of the program

"From the Center," that works with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women to use digital storytelling to educate on and advocate around social issues, such as HIV/AIDS and the prison industrial complex.

The Center is pleased to welcome Rhee to UCLA and will feature her in its Colloquium Series during the Winter Quarter.

*Margaret Rhee at the IAC Fall Forum
(Photo courtesy of Adona Photography)*



2014-2015 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER GRANTS,

2014 ARATANI C.A.R.E. GRANT RECIPIENTS

CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: Nikkei Community Internship
UCLA SPONSOR: Nancy Matsukawa

KIZUNA

PROJECT: Youth CAN Program
UCLA SPONSOR: Kristin Fukushima

JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: Fiesta Matsuri
UCLA SPONSOR: UCLA Nikkei Student Union

NIKKEI STUDENT UNION & INTERCOLLEGIATE NIKKEI COUNCIL

PROJECT: Nikkei Voices
UCLA SPONSOR: Nikkei Student Union

TOYOTOMI MORIMOTO (WASEDA UNIVERSITY)

PROJECT: A Collaborative Project to Utilize the JARP Collection Oral History Tapes at UCLA
UCLA SPONSOR: Don Nakanishi

PACIFIC ASIAN CONSORTIUM IN EMPLOYMENT

PROJECT: Documenting the APIA Movement in Los Angeles (Serve the People Institute)
UCLA SPONSOR: Warren Furutani

LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROJECT: Sei Fujii: A Man of Great Integrity - Book Project
UCLA SPONSOR: Bill Watanabe

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship



LINA CHHUN

PhD Student, Gender Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Narrative Silences and Cambodian Histories of Violence

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship



GWYNETH SHANKS

PhD Student, Theater and Performance Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Visualizing the Now: Transcending National Subjectivities in Mariko Mori's *Beginning of the End*

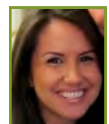
Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship



PREETI SHARMA

PhD Student, Gender Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Raising Eyebrows: Affective and Intimate Labor in Los Angeles' South Asian Threading Salons

21st Century Graduate Fellowship



THERESA ARRIOLA

PhD Student, Anthropology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Training the Pacific: Contemporary Militarism and Neocolonialism in the Mariana Islands

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship



WENDI YAMASHITA

PhD Student, Gender Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Share Carceral/Colonial Spaces: Reimagining Japanese Americans Claims to Land

Dr. Paul & Hisako Terasaki Fellowship



AKI YAMADA

PhD Student, Education
RESEARCH PROJECT: Education Strategies Among Transnational New Japanese and their American-Born Children

21st Century Graduate Internship



RITA PHETMIXAY

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: My Lao American Roots
INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American Studies Center

RESEARCH GRANT

Patrick and Lily Okura Faculty Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health



HEIDI TUASON, MPH

DrPH Student, Community Health Sciences
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Kamalayan Project: Freeing Unspoken Voices of Mental (Un)Wellness in the Filipino Community

GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC PRIZES

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans



JAMES ONG

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Double Enforcement of the Color Line: Multiethnic Japanese Americans and Interracial Families During the Incarceration

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize



PHI SU

PhD Student, Sociology
PAPER TITLE: Reel Politics: How Social Control and Symbolic Threat Inform Organizing in an Immigrant Community

Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize



TARA FICKLE

PhD Student, English
PAPER TITLE: American Rules, Chinese Faces: The Games of Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



TARA FICKLE

PhD Student, English
PAPER TITLE: Storytellers: The Voices of Korean Transracial Adoption

ACADEMIC PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans



TERYN HARA

MAJOR: Sociology
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: The Unknown Life in "Paradise"

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize



JENNY HUANG

MAJOR: Pre-Psychology
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Little Tokyo's Bronzeville

Eun Ju Koo Memorial Prize



LINDA TON

MAJORS: Asian American Studies & Art History
PAPER TITLE: "Where's Papa?" - A Quest for the "Truth" of Domestic Violence

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



MICHAEL TRAN

MAJOR: English
MINOR: Civic Engagement
PAPER TITLE: Simultaneous Histories: Conceptions of Los Angeles in Asian American Literature

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



REBECCA TANG

MAJOR: English
MINORS: French & Society and Genetics
PAPER TITLE: Addressing Chamorro Reclamation through Allocation of Space

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



ALICE LI

MAJORS: Asian American Studies & Gender Studies
MINOR: Asian American Languages and Cultures
PAPER TITLE: Middle Women

Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies



JASMINE RAMIREZ

MAJOR: Psychobiology
MINORS: Asian American Studies & Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Still Left Behind: Filipino Amerasian Experience and Their Fight for Equality

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



NICOLE NGAOSI

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Global Studies
PAPER TITLE: Filipino/American: The Forgotten Minority

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



LINA CHHUN

PhD Student, Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Constructing Alternative Subjectivities in the Afterlife of Violence: A Feminist Re-reading of the Psychosomatic Register and Hauntings

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



STEPHANIE CHANG

MA Student, Asian American Studies & Social Welfare
PAPER TITLE: In the Eye of the Beholder: Asian American YouTube Beauty Bloggers and Surplus Subjectivity

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship



JESSICA THACH

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Education
PAPER TITLE: I Can't Live Without HOPE - Higher Opportunity Program for Education



PRISCILLA PHANG

MAJOR: Pre-Economics
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Gone or Here?

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship



CHERRY LAI

MAJORS: Sociology & Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Where are They Now? A Study of Japanese American Experience in the City of Monterey Park

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship



MITCHELL LEE

MAJORS: Japanese & Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American National Museum

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



JACK SZUWEI CHEN

MAJOR: Neuroscience

21st Century Undergraduate Internship



ALVIN BUI

MAJORS: History & Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: Homework
INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American Studies Center



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TWITTER: @UCLAAASC PRESS
INSTAGRAM: @UCLAAASC

From left to right: (1) Members of the Amerasia Journal Editorial Board at the 2014 AAAS Conference in San Francisco; (2) Audience at the Suyama Project event at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute; (3) Ethnic Studies Centers' staff at the first IAC retreat; (4) Undergraduate students at the Center's Annual Awards Reception; (5) Students holding a rally in response to the racist letter sent to the Center; (6) Samip Mallick talking about the South Asian American Digital Archive



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